work to be carried out for 1997-98;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the functioning of Regional Selection Board more transparent and efficient; and

(f) the details of the marketing plan for petroleum products for 1997-98 for Maharashtra State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The estimated demand and actual sale of LPG in Maharashtra during the last three years are as under :

Year	Est. Demand (Figs in TMT's)	Actual Sales (Figs in TMT's)
1994-95	592.30	605.80
1995-96	647.82	669.84
1996-97	713.74	721.50

(b) The details of demand projections of LPG in the State of Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan are as under :

Year	Demand (Figs in TMT's)
1997-98	1247.92
1998-99	1376.90
1999-00	1540.83
2000-01	1672.52
2001-02	1770.58

(c), (d) and (f) It has been decided to have a two-year Marketing Plan 1996-98 instead of single year plan 1996-97. The Marketing Plan 1996-98 for petrol/diesel retail outlets has been finalised. It contains 433 retail outlet proposals for different parts of the country including 34 for the State of Maharashtra. The Marketing Plan for LPG distributorships and SKO/LDO dealerships has not yet been finalised.

(e) Revised Dealer Selection Guidelines have been laid down with a view to ensuring fair and transparent functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards in making the selections for dealers/distributors of petroleum products. The composition of the Board has been decided as under :

(i) A retired Judge of High Court - Chairman

(ii) An officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of the concerned Oil Company. - Member

(iii) An officer not below the rank of DGM of the another Oil Company. - Member

It would be incumbent on the Board to finalise the merit panel within 24 hours of the completion of the interview.

Pilots in IA and AI

2961. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pilots employed in the Indian Airlines and the Air India and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pilots out of them;

(b) whether the Government proposed to provide special training to the pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Details of pilots are as under :-

	Total No. of Pilots	SC	ST
Air India	413	15	3
Indian Airlines	434	22	6

(b) and (c) Both Air India and Indian Airlines appoint Commercial Pilots License holders as trainee pilots from the open market. Presidential directive regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in appointments in Public Sector Enterprises is followed by the two airlines. All the trainee pilots including SC & ST are imparted training on the aircraft in the fleet of the two airlines.

Supply of Seamless Steel Pipes

2962. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC awarded the contract for the supply of seamless steel line pipes for B-55 Project to Marubeni Corporation of Japan by miscalculating the freight charges though the tenders of Dalmine of Italy were the lowest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by this action, O.N.G.C. has imposed an additional burden of about Rs. 1.75 crores on

the national exchequer and the O.N.G.C. has violated the practice of transparency in awarding the above contract;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective action/steps taken by the Government to prevent such misuse ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) ONGC awarded the contract to M/s Marubeni Corporation, Japan, which was the lowest evaluated offer, as per bid evaluation criteria based on freight rates obtained from Transchart before price bid opening.

(c) to (e) the contract was evaluated as per the bid evaluation criteria which was known to all the bidders in advance and therefore the question of any additional burden or lack of transparency does not arise.

[Translation]

Diesel/Petrol Pumps

2963. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) The total number of Diesel/Petrol Pumps running in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to set up new Petrol/Diesel Pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the time by which the new Petrol/Diesel Pumps are likely to be set up; and

(d) the criteria adopted for allotment of Petrol/Diesel Pumps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As on 1.4.1997, 1638 retail outlets were in operation in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) In addition to the locations pending from previous Marketing Plans, 34 new retail outlet dealerships have been included in the draft RO Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Maharashtra. It generally takes about 6-12 months to commission the dealership after issue of Letter of Intent.

(d) For allotment of retail outlet dealerships, candidates have to meet the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, income residence and multiple dealership norms.

[English]

Tariffs for Domestic Hotel Industry

2964. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading tour operators and travel agents have presented a petition to the Government seeking initiation of administration tariffs for the domestic hotel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, tour operators and travel agents associations have made representations for the abolition of dual tariffs being charged by some of the hotels. The Government is seized of the issue and have taken up the same with the concerned authorities.

FDI in Private Sector

2965. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Panel set up to woo FDI in transport sector" appearing in the Financial Express dated July 15, 1997;

(b) if so, the details regarding terms of reference of the committee and its composition and task asigned and the likely period for submission of report to the Government; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Ministry has not constituted any such Committee.

Performance of Navodaya Vidyalayas

2966. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any attempt at formally assessing the functioning of the scheme of Navodaya Vidyalaya since its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and